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approach of two parties at a swinging trot, each carrying a ladder covered with long planks to protect them from our fire. They succeeded in planting them against two windows, and a great number began to mount, every man, to our great surprise, having a pillow in front of him, which he pushed up to shelter him as he ascended. This device, however, proved futile, as we picked off the pillows with the point of a long pike as soon as they got near the top, and then shot down their bearers.

It was just midnight, and the rain was beginning to descend in fearful torrents, when we discovered that we had only six rounds a man of powder and ball remaining. Old Mr. Gilbert began to lose heart, and offered twenty pounds to any man who would ride to Hacketstown and bring on a troop of dragoons to our assistance; and, if he fell, to provide for his family, or any one who was dependent on him. There was a general pause. None liked to run so fearful a risk as running the fire of an unseen enemy scattered all over the fields for half a mile round, and doubtless in great force along the whole line of road. Whether it was infatuation, or foolhardiness, or want of sleep, that made me volunteer to undertake this duty, I have never been able to tell; all I know is that it was not really devoted courage.

The horses had been brought into the kitchen, and were there standing in a profusion of straw. The Lyanna had been well rubbed down, and from what I knew of her mettle I felt assured she was again ready for the road. In the excitement of the moment I hurried off, and in a few minutes she was saddled, led out into the yard, and I mounted. I took a hurried leave of the old gentleman, the gates were suddenly opened, and out I dashed. The yells and execrations that met my ear when I issued on the lawn, and the moonlight fell on me through the drizzling rain, sounded like my death knell; and throwing myself forward on the mare's neck, galloped for dear life. I had nearly reached the gate, and was congratulating myself upon my escape, when a dozen men started up like ghosts, shut the gates, and closed to receive me on their bayonets. Luckily there was still room for presence of mind; and suddenly turning aside I galloped for a few strides across the green sward; and clearing the wall at a bound, fell out upon the road. I rose with the blood streaming from my head, scrambled on Lyanna's back, and away we went once more, the bullets flying pretty thickly, but gradually decreasing, until a stray shot, fired at random from a Shilmaleer gun, was the only evidence of the close proximity of an enemy. But on coming round a sweep of the road which brought me in the rear of the hall, the noise of the firing came distinctly up the glen, and I could still hear the faint cheer of the besieged, which was almost the only thing they could now send back to the crashing volleys which rained upon the house, and which entering at the open windows struck the plaster of the walls and ceiling in crumbling masses.

I tied a handkerchief round my head, which stopped the bleeding from the cut received in my fall, and galloped on. I suddenly heard the sound of a horse's footsteps behind me. I put the Lyanna to the top of her speed, but still my pursuer seemed to gain on me, and, at last, when he seemed to be within pistol-shot, he roared, in a hoarse voice, "Ride aisy, I tell ye; ain't I old Nick Timmins, that was born an' bred in Grana Hall; bear ye're mare down the hill, and take the ditch at the cross roads, or ye'll go right into Darby Kelly's old house, and be spitted afore ye know where ye are. Pull aisy, I say!"

Thus adjured, I did "pull aisy," and was very soon joined by the speaker—a thin, tall, but wiry man of about forty-five, mounted upon an equally gaunt, high-shouldered, rough-going horse, one of those old Irish hunters, which, for courage and endurance, particularly in crossing a rough country, have perhaps never been surpassed. He told me that he feared I might go astray, and fall into the hands of some of the roving bands of brigands which had now overspread the country, and had therefore broken cover soon after my departure and followed me.

The moon soon broke out in splendour, and we crossed the

ditch at the turning at full speed, and struck out boldly through the meadow below, taking every fence and hedge, as if following the hounds in broad noonday. At the foot of the hill we plunged into the river with a splash and dash which roused the cattle in the adjacent fields from their midnight slumbers, and sent them cantering wildly about in every direction. After two miles we once more reached the road, and in half an hour thundered up the silent streets of Hacketstown; and, after answering the sentinel's challenge, were admitted into the presence of my old friends Captain Hudson. He hastily donned his uniform, the trumpet sounded the *veille*, and in fifteen minutes we were once more on the road, going at the top of our speed towards Grana Hall. When we reached it, the Lyanna was well nigh spent; the out-offices were in flames, and a heap of burning straw piled up at the hall-door had already sent the flames up the staircase and through the dining-room. We charged up the lawn with loud hurrahs, the rebels slowly retired—the terrible Shilmaleers knocking many a fine fellow out of his saddle as they retreated, and, rushing into the house, we soon extinguished the fire, and put all to rights. The troops remained till morning, and then a company was left *en permanence*. I went to bed and slept soundly, and in the morning I received the hearty thanks and congratulations of father and daughters. Before the end of the summer one of them was my wife.

THE CHIMPANZEE.

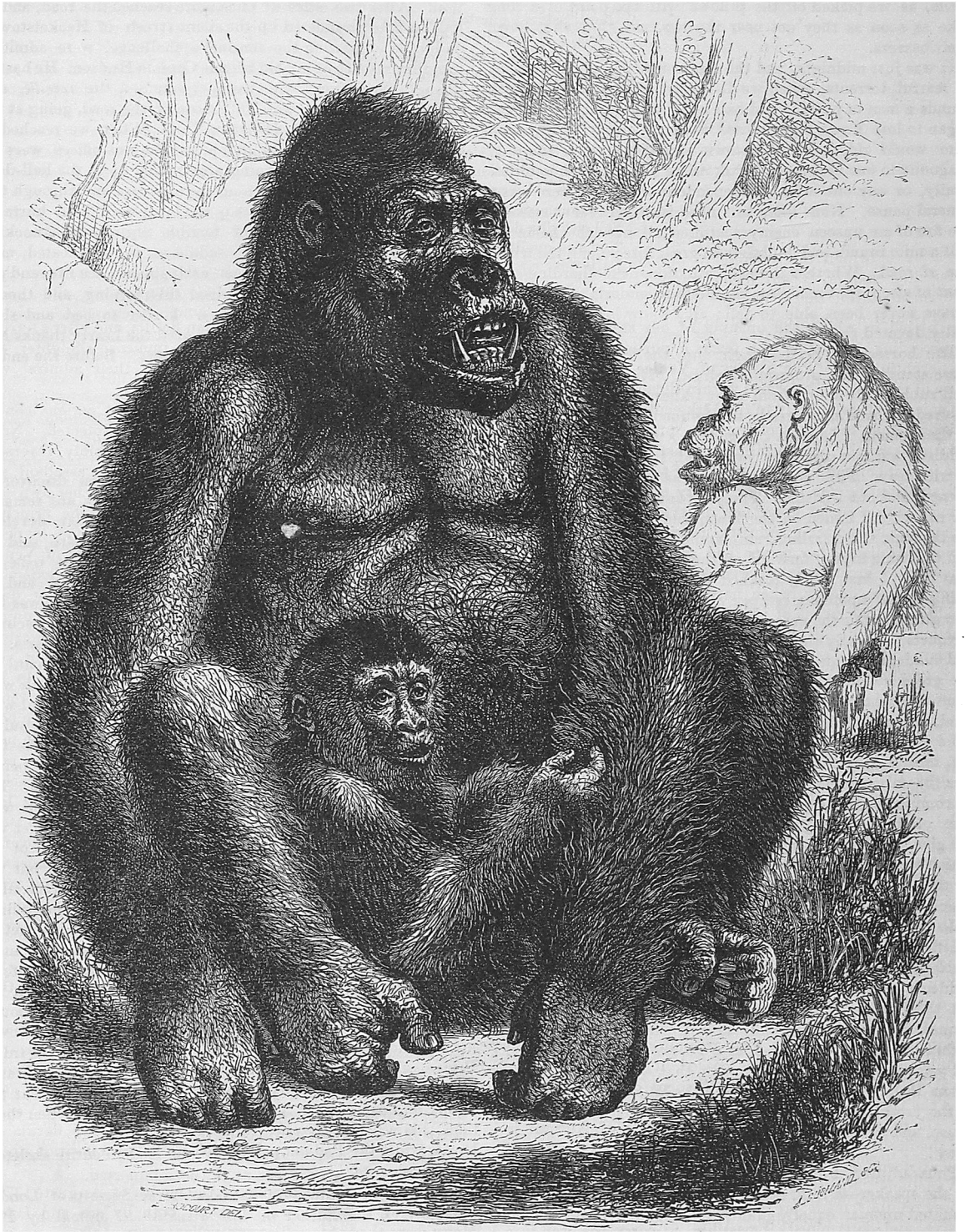
A new species of chimpanzee has lately been discovered. On the western coast of Africa these animals are remarkable for superior instinct and stronger muscular development than the ordinary orang-outang. They are said to approach the nearest to man of all the monkey tribe in their interior organisation, exterior characteristics, and in sagacity and cunning. The species, for a long time, was but very imperfectly understood. In 1849 a perfect adult specimen was forwarded to the Museum of Natural History at Paris. In the following January, two other specimens were sent, the first, a young animal, the other a full grown adult; both were preserved in alcohol, and immediately upon their arrival were submitted to a careful anatomical investigation. The result of the inquiry was, the unmistakeable establishment of the fact that this animal was the most elevated in the scale of being, approaching in its physical organism the nearest to man. The adult presented a very extraordinary aspect. Its fangs were enormous, and the evidence of its great muscular power was afforded by the whole of its proportions. The height of the animal was above that of a man of middle stature, but the width of the body, the immense size of its lower limbs, altogether surpassed that of the human frame. French naturalists inform us, that some of the species are nearly seven feet in height, and measure round the chest more than five feet and a half. United to these extraordinary dimensions, the intelligence of the animal is perfectly surprising. But though the brain is formed in the same manner as that of man, although the machinery appears almost as perfect as that of our own, the creature still wants reason, and it is true with regard to this species, as it was true with regard to the orang-outang, that no disposition of matter will give mind; and that the body, how nicely soever formed, is formed in vain when there is not infused a soul to direct its operations.

The British Museum has lately obtained an entire skeleton, but no living specimen has as yet been imported.

In the proceedings of the Zoological Society of London there is a description of this remarkable animal by Professor Owen. The great chimpanzee (*Troglodytes Gorilla*), differs from any animal of the kind yet brought under the notice of naturalists, in the following principal particulars:—By its greater size; by the existence of large occipital and interparietal crests in the males, and by rudiments of the same in the females; by the form of the nasal orifices, and the distance between them and the mouth being less than in the chimpanzee and orang; and by the bones of the nose and

front head being more narrow and compressed than has been observed in the skulls of the Sumatran variety of chimpanzees in the British Museum and elsewhere. In the skulls of adult males in the College of Surgeons, Dr. Wyman observed such peculiarities as satisfied him that they belonged to a species

that the formation of the facial bones gives "a scowling and diabolical physiognomy even to the dry bones" of the skulls in our possession; and few of our readers who look at the picture will feel inclined, we think, to doubt the critical truth of the professor's description. In the nose of the chimpanzee



GREAT CHIMPANZEE RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.

of animal nearly allied to the chimpanzee of the west coast of Africa, though the identity of the *Troglodytes Gorilla* with the orang of Buffon be considered a matter of extreme doubt. Professor Owen says—speaking generally of the great anthropoid apes, to which family this formidable creature belongs—

we discover the nearest approach to the prominent nasal bones of man made in any known species of ape; and a close observation of the formation of the facial bones has enabled naturalists to conclude that the large and small chimpanzees do not exactly belong to the same species.